

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251561

EXDIS

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 15306 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO PARIS 19 OCT 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15306

EXDIS

PARIS FOR USDEL UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: KGB PROVOCATION AGAINST US UNESCO DEL IN TBILISI

SUMMARY: KGB MADE CRUDE RECRUITMENT ATTEMPT ON BASIS
OF BLACKMAIL AGAINST US DEPUTY UNESCO PERMREP WARVARIV
IN HIS HOTEL ROOM NIGHT OF OCTOBER 15-16.

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PAGE 02 STATE 251561

DELEGATION CHIEF BERRY INFORMED ACTING
DIRECTOR GENERAL UNESCO OF INCIDENT ON OCTOBER 18 AND RECEIVED
"EXPLANATION" FROM HOTEL "MANAGER" LATER SAME DAY.
EMBASSY HAS DELIVERED STIFF PROTEST TO MFA OCTOBER 19 (TEXT
BY SEPTTEL). EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT MAKE
SIMILAR PROTEST TO SOVIET EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF ACCOMPANYING US DEL TO UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN TBILISI WAS NIGHT OF OCTOBER 16 GIVEN FOLLOWING ACCOUNT BY CONSTANTINE WARVARIV, AGAINST WHOM KGB RECRUITMENT ATTEMPT WAS DIRECTED PREVIOUS NIGHT. WARVARIV IS DEPUTY PERMANENT US REPRESENTATIVE TO UNESCO IN PARIS AND CURRENTLY IS SERVING AS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE IN US DEL TO THE UNESCO CONFERENCE IN TBILISI. HE HAS DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT AND SOVIET DIPLOMATIC VISA.

2. AS BEST WE CAN RECONSTRUCT INCIDENT, ON BASIS OF WRITTEN AND CRYPTIC ORAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN WARVARIV AND EMBOFF:

--AT ABOUT 1:00 A.M. OCTOBER 16 (WARVARIV HAD ARRIVED IN TBILISI PREVIOUS DAY) AN UNIDENTIFIED SOVIET MALE KNOCKED AT WARVARIV'S ROOM AT THE HOTEL ADJARIA, SAID HE WAS A KGB AGENT AND, WITHOUT BEING INVITED IN, PUSHED HIS WAY PAST WARVARIV INTO THE ROOM; SOVIET HAD DOSSIER UNDER HIS ARM;

--WITH AGGRESSIVE MANNER, AND SPEAKING IN RUSSIAN, SOVIET INDICATED DOSSIER CONTAINED "FULL STORY" OF WARVARIV'S PAST AND DEMANDED THAT WARVARIV COOPERATE BY ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC OFFICERS AT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 251561

US EMBASSIES IN EASTERN EUROPE;

--WARVARIV SAID (IN FLUENT RUSSIAN) HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN EE EMBASSIES AND REPEATEDLY REQUESTED THE SOVIET TO LEAVE THE ROOM; WARVARIV POINTED OUT HE WAS US DIPLOMAT AND A SENIOR MEMBER US UNESCO DEL, AND REFUSED TO COOPERATE;

--SOVIET THEN USED ROOM TELEPHONE TO SUMMON A COLLEAGUE WHO SHORTLY APPEARED AND ENTERED ROOM;

--TWO MEN TOLD WARVARIV THEY HAD COME TO TBILISI FROM MOSCOW SOLELY TO SEE HIM AND THEIR MISSION WAS IMPORTANT; THEY CLAIMED THAT DESPITE WARVARIV'S UNESCO STATUS, HE WAS ON SOVIET SOIL WHERE SOVIET LAW PREVAILED;

--SOVIETS ATTEMPTED TO IMPRESS WARVARIV WITH HOW MUCH THEY KNEW ABOUT HIM, AND SHOWED HIM VARIOUS DOSSIER ITEMS, INCLUDING PHOTOS TAKEN OF HIM, WITH HIS FAMILY, AS A CHILD AND A YOUNG MAN (WARVARIV TOLD EMBOFF HE WAS BORN IN A PART OF POLAND NOW IN

USSR, HIS FATHER HAD BEEN A RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PRIEST,
AND THAT WARVARIV HAD EMIGRATED AT AGE 18);

--WARVARIV TOLD EMBOFF ONLY "COMPROMISING" ITEM
IN FILE WAS A FORGED LETTER PURPORTEDLY FROM HIS LATE FATHER
(WHO DIED IN 1963) IMPLICATING WARVARIV AS NAZI
COLLABORATOR DURING WAR.

3. WARVARIV SAID THAT AFTER TOTAL OF THREE HOURS
TWO MEN LEFT, AFTER THEY PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH
WITH WARVARIV OCTOBER 17 AND NOTED THAT IF HE
COOPERATED WITH THEM, HE WOULD NEVER HAVE MONETARY
WORRIES. WARVARIV SAID HE TOLD THEM WHOLE THING
WAS BLACKMAIL AND THAT HE WOULD NOT COOPERATE.
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PAGE 04 STATE 251561

4. WARVARIV FIRST GAVE EMBOFF INDICATION OF ABOVE
EVENING OF OCTOBER 16, AFTER RETURNING TO HOTEL FROM
ALL-DAY EXCURSION EARLIER THAT DAY. AT EMBOFF'S
SUGGESTION, HE MOVED TO HOTEL ROOM OF ANOTHER US
DELEGATE (FSO DONALD KING) NIGHT OF OCTOBER 16.
ONLY FURTHER INCIDENT IN WARVARIV CASE WAS REPEATED
KNOCK AT WARVARIV/KING HOTEL ROOM LATE NIGHT OCTOBER 17.
THEY DID NOT RESPOND, AND CALLER WENT AWAY.

5. WARVARIV REMAINS IN HIGHLY AGITATED CONDITION AS
RESULT OF INCIDENT, FEARS THREAT TO HIS LIFE, AND
DESIRES TO LEAVE USSR AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.
HE HAS ARRANGED TO FLY TO MOSCOW, ACCOMPANIED BY US
DEL HEAD MARY BERRY, MID-DAY OCTOBER 20. EMBASSY WILL
OF COURSE MEET AND ASSIST. WE HAVE BOOKED WARVARIV ON AF FLIGHT
721 ARRIVING PARIS 5:25 PM OCTOBER 20.

6. EMBASSY WAS JUST INFORMED BY TELEPHONE FROM
TBILISI THAT DELEGATION HEAD MARY BERRY OFFICIALLY
INFORMED UNESCO ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW ON
MORNING OF OCTOBER 18, AS RESULT OF WHICH UNESCO
CALLED MATTER TO ATTENTION OF SOVIET ORGANIZERS.
BERRY WAS INVITED TO MEET WITH PERSON IDENTIFIED
AS "HOTEL MANAGER" DURING AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 18.
"MANAGER" READ HER A "STATEMENT BY SOVIET GOVERN-
MENT", PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO UNESCO INTERVENTION.
STATEMENT ALLEGED THAT WARVARIV WAS QUESTIONED
REGARDING HIS WARTIME ACTIVITIES ON SOVIET SOIL
AND ASSERTED SOVIET RIGHT TO DO SO. BERRY POINTED
OUT THAT OUR VERSION OF INCIDENT IS DIFFERENT, TO
WHICH SHE RECEIVED NO REPOSE. IN RESPONSE TO
ANOTHER QUESTION SHE WAS TOLD THAT SHE AND WARVARIV
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 251561

COULD LEAVE TBILISI WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. SHE WAS
ALSO TOLD THAT WARVARIV'S DOSSIER WOULD BE GIVEN
IMMEDIATELY TO US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW.

7. DCM DELIVERED STIFF PROTEST NOTE ON
WARVARIV INCIDENT TO MFA USA DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF COMPLEKTOV
OCTOBER 19. TEXT OF NOTE SEPTOL.

8. BERRY AND WARVARIV WILL BE DEBRIEFED WHEN THEY
TRANSIT MOSCOW OCTOBER 20, AND EMBASSY WILL REPORT RESULTS.

9. COMMENT: WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT
MAKE A SUPPORTING PROTEST TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY. USF NVMP
UNQUOTE VANCE

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